

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
BRIDGEPORT, CA  
APRIL 5, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES  
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 16, "Project Evaluation Criteria": Does "institutional capabilities" refer to grant applications?

GRANT GUIDELINES  
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 2, "Program Areas": Obviously for eligible projects there will be a need to make some kind of linkage to water/watersheds, particularly on objectives #1 and #3. For example on #1, say the project is something related to aspens. Would that qualify?
2. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 4, "Grant Selection Process": So SNC would fund conditionally; a project can be a "go" if applicants meet additional requirements? Can help leverage projects.
3. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 6, "Land Tenure": You said that land agreements will need to be "in place", can that be changed to "probable?"
4. Could planning grants include funding for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and environmental assessment generation?
5. What are the criteria for equitable distribution across the subregions? Population? Visitation?
6. Do funds allow for environmental education?
7. Does "watershed health" have to pertain specifically to California? Watersheds here flow into Nevada.
8. Are grants limited to a single year? Would multi-year funding be possible? It can be hard to fit a project into a single year.
9. Does California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/NEPA compliance have to be done ahead of time? Will there be money for planning?
10. Would SNC look at an agency providing its own CEQA/NEPA documentation as a form of matching funds? Would that be viewed favorably competitively?
11. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 11, "Grant Proposal and Evaluation," second paragraph: Is the evaluation process for both types of grants on a point basis? The Strategic Opportunity Grant (SOG) section says there are points, but they aren't outlined.
12. Will there be a minimum on the grant amounts?
13. Will the application have to specify that the applicant is seeking a Competitive Grant?
14. Can you apply for two grants for one project? Both SOGs and Competitive Grants?

15. Is there room in the process to submit supporting documents with the application, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans? Or would that be a follow-on?
16. It appears that you could use a SOG to develop your project and then apply for a Competitive Grant in a later year.
17. Is there something in the documents about the timetable for grants?
18. Will the administrative guidelines include requirements for language? For example, language that will be required for conservation easements terms and guidelines?
19. Has SNC staged that \$54 million in terms of it going out?
20. Is the entire amount for grants coming out of Prop. 84 funds?
21. Is SNC going to have a maximum number of projects a U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management office can submit, or are you going to keep it open?

### OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Thinking of the big picture: Is SNC anticipating getting a baseline so that you can measure progress in improvements to watersheds and other resources?
2. Curious about your buy-in from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in regard to watershed issues. I would think that watershed health is in their interest since they're water exporters.
3. Is SNC communicating with the LADWP Water Commission? Or at the local level?
4. We need an idea about how regional or expansive a project needs to be. How important is that? Mammoth and Long Valley Fire Districts are right next to each other, they could work together. Also, does the process have enough latitude to accommodate differing microclimates within a project area?
5. This is probably prohibited, but is SNC prevented from supporting or sponsoring legislation or propositions?
6. Rural areas lack staff with a lot of technical expertise. Waters go from here to the western urban areas, and we have several impaired waterways. This is a jewel/playground for a lot of people, but we have no money for monitoring, watershed coordinators, wetland delineation, etc. We just finished water plans for the Walker and Upper Owens Rivers. It really highlighted the lack of data more than anything else. This watershed needs one too.
7. Will the future SNC staff in Bishop do educational programs, and provide technical assistance?
8. In regards to the new Bishop staff, will SNC be looking for people with more than just scientific backgrounds? How about social science?
9. How will SNC funds be replenished after the initial \$54 million?
10. Any idea when I can get my license plate? How many people have signed up?
11. Comment from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF): CDF has interest in wildfire risk reduction, etc. We're here to offer assistance with staff and planning projects. The Owens Valley Camp also has a workforce

that can be used in southern Mono County. Larry Martinez is coming back to work, he'll be a contact. Call the Owens Valley Camp at (760) 387-2565.

#### SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Watershed health/restoration
2. Environmental education
3. CEQA/NEPA compliance
4. Wildfire risk reduction